



TOWN OF PORTLAND – Youth & Family Services

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HB 6659 Testimony

Jesse Revicki, Portland Youth & Family Services

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Sen. Osten, Rep. Walker, Sen. Berthel, Rep. Nuccio, Sen. Lesser, Rep. Gilcrest, Sen. Somers, Rep. Bolinsky and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee:

My name is Jesse Revicki and I am here on behalf of Portland Youth & Family Services. Thank you for your time today to hear my testimony on the Governor's Budget proposal. I would like to thank the Governor for keeping Youth Service Bureaus whole in his proposed budget. It is very much appreciated; however, the extraordinary needs of our youth have elevated the need for additional staffing and resources to support the complex nature of the issues facing them and their families. As such, additional yearly funding of \$60,000 per YSB (\$6.18 million for all 103 YSBs) is vital and will allow for increased staffing and support in the areas of mental health, case management and/or program services (based on the needs of each community) to increase capacity and respond to issues the current funding allocation does not allow.

Portland is a small town, with a small department; just me. As Youth & Family Services Administrator, I am currently responsible for: 1) managing the Juvenile Review Board, which has moved strongly towards restorative practices, and sees 5-10 youth a year with complex mental health, school, and family issues; 2) revitalizing the Local Prevention Council, which focuses on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and has made Portland a DMHAS Recovery Friendly Community; 3) running early childhood programs which provide activities for families with their young children; 4) supporting teens with wellness and development programs that include LGBTQ+ support groups and activity nights, and race & equity leadership training series in collaboration with other local YSBs; 5) organizing town-wide events such as Halloween on Main St and a Holiday Light Parade that bring the community together. Additional funding that could support a Youth Program Coordinator could vastly expand what we are able to offer.

Additional funding can also help expand how we are able to assist the courts and schools. In the nearly 30 years since the current YSB funding levels were set, YSBs have been asked to handle all Families with Service Needs cases; all Truancy cases; underage possession of cannabis; and soon other low-level misdemeanors. The breadth of cases has expanded, as has the complexity, and I'm sure you've heard elsewhere today.

Thank you very much for listening, I greatly appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Jesse Revicki
Portland Youth & Family Services Administrator